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THE SEASON'S GREETINGS

If you pick up a dozen publications for the month of December you will have an opportunity to read twelve Christmas editorials which differ from one another principally in the matter of length. The mould for Christmas writings was cast a long time ago, and few writers have since been inspired to deviate from the "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men" theme. It is refreshing, then, to find the following message from the Chief in the Service Bulletin:

"At no time in the history of the world do the blessings of democracy stand out as clearly as at present. We who are privileged to live and work in that greatest of all democracies - the United States - are most fortunate indeed.

"While elsewhere democracies crumble and free institutions perish beneath the heels of dictators, our rights and liberties as free men become ever more precious.

"On the eve of Christmas, recalling other times and other places where men were martyred and crucified for humanity, it is appropriate that we rededicate ourselves to democratic ideals and to the defense of human rights.

"Only in free democratic countries can science and truth exist. Under dictatorship free inquiry and independent thinking perish.

"May, then, our Forest Service which, from birth, has been permeated with the spirit of public service, equality among all its members, and courageous seeking after truth and knowledge, remain forever the guardian and militant defender of the ideals of a free people."

There is little that can be added to that save a fervent "Amen."

NURSERY BUSINESS NOT ALL BEER AND SKITTLES, IT SEEMS

Harry Rigdon, who dictates how the well-raised Kansas seedling shall occupy itself this winter, discovers that there are some extra-curricular angles in Government nursery business, to say nothing of plenty of hard work and the necessity for carrying on a constant fencing duel with the weather man. Says he:

"Guy Smith, Nurseryman at Salina, completed his nursery digging in the November pay period. He is now sending his crew to McPherson to help John Rogers complete his digging. Most of the men at Salina have been with our organization two years and they just dig trees like nobody's business.

"Labor is short at McPherson and Rogers has been digging with a crew of about a dozen men, while his nursery has the largest stock of seedlings of any of our leases. His crew has not allowed anyone to dig more trees per man. With the combined crews it will take two weeks in December to clean up the McPherson lease.

"The Winfield crew was a week later in getting started to dig, and has been interrupted a little more by bad weather. Consequently, they will be digging most of December. If the weather man will just cooperate we will complete our digging before we freeze up.

"We have established our central storage of nursery stock at the Fair Grounds, Hutchinson. Stock is moving in now at regular intervals and is being sent on to the planting area as rapidly as needed. Nearly one million seedlings have accumulated for all winter storage with about the same amount already planted or at least delivered to the planting area. About a million are yet to be dug.

"A regular gasoline pump and a 500-gallon storage tank have been installed at this storage. It is inspiring to see the splendid gasoline business that has developed at this point. The Regional men have even installed auxiliary tanks in their trucks - they like to see the gas run out of our pump so well. This station has already acquired a wide reputation as two trucks from North Dakota, routed to Oklahoma, were somehow inspired to stop and patronize us. It does not seem necessary to offer free coffee to get the business. The philosopher who said, 'If you build a better mouse trap the world will beat a path to your door,' had only a miniature vision of what would happen if you put up a free gas station. Our State being in the geographic center of the U.S.A. also adds to the possibilities of our business.

"A recent visit to Kansas by Harold Engstrom pointed out that our nurserymen had broken down in judgment slightly and were including some undersized seedlings in our bundles. This is a conscientious error and a desperate effort is being made to see that it is righted, but Harold just did not realize how big any seedling looked to a Kansas nurseryman after the year of drought, grasshoppers, and unsettled financial conditions. Our surprise is that they did not pick out the large seedlings and route them to the saw mill instead of the planting area."

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF W. W. ASHE AVAILABLE

Wm. A. Dayton, of the Division of Range Research, has prepared a short illustrated biographical sketch of the late William Willard Ashe, together with a bibliography of his writings. Ashe entered the Forest Service in 1905, and remained in it until his death in 1932, but his chief claim to fame lies in his botanical explorations. During his lifetime he published 510 new botanical names, and several tree species bear his name as recognized nomenclature. His writings, ranging in subject matter from treatise on plant nomenclature to works on timber estimating, grading, and marketing, number 167 - a truly remarkable and variegated output.

The sketch is planographed in 22 pages, and contains an excellent portrait of the subject. It may be had gratis by writing the author, c/o U. S. Forest Service, Washington.

THEY MUST BE

An Ozarkian, says R-9 Daily Contact, scared up a rabbit while walking through the woods. Turning to a companion he exclaimed "there goes a rabbit, and nobody chasin' him! Times sho must be gettin' better."

WE ALWAYS THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT IT

Al Ford once told a story to illustrate how fast the trees in his shelterbelts grew. According to him, he once tried to chop one of them down but it was shooting skyward so rapidly that he was unable to strike twice in the same place. We thought at the time that there was something wrong with the picture, but just couldn't put our finger on it. Now it is all clear; Forest and Outdoors reports that trees do practically all of their growing at night.

WE WERE AFRAID OF THIS!

Reference is made to the TM list of questions for answer in the October issue and to Shelterbelt Sam's answers to these questions in the November issue. The South Dakota Unit feels space in our house organ used for such material as these ridiculous answers is not only unwarranted but entirely out of place. If any unit has actually discovered answers that would be of actual value to other units that is what we want.

We believe that we have solved one of the problems - the matter of seed stratification with peat. Since this scheme is so simple and since it has given us such outstanding results we believe it worth passing on to other units who have had trouble with this perplexing problem. In brief, our system is as follows:

Break the bales of peat and shred up the material into a uniform mass free from lumps and chunks. Mound in a pile and thoroughly sprinkle and turn with a fork. Thoroughly sprinkle once a day and turn with a fork once a day for 21 days. Then leave in a pile without sprinkling or turning for 21 days. Then repeat the first process; that is, sprinkle and turn once a day for another 21 days. Now the material is ready for use. In using this medium for stratification the process is so simple that it is hardly worth recording. Simply stratify the seed in good clean sand and THROW THE PEAT AWAY.

- A.L.F.

BETTER MEND OUR WAYS

In speaking before the Association of Audubon Societies recently, Associate Chief Earle H. Clapp warned that unless America's range areas are restored the country will be faced with the creation of a great desert, comprising two-fifths of the Nation's land area.

ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION CENTURIES AGO

Although its purpose was different from today, roadside beautification had its place even as far back as the 13th century. From the account of "The Travels of Marco Polo" we learn of one of the fine works of the Great Khan:

"The emperor moreover has taken order that all of the highways traveled by his messengers and the people generally should be planted with rows of great trees a few paces apart; and thus these trees are visible a long way off, and no one can miss the way by day or night. Even the roads through uninhabited tracts are thus planted, and it is the greatest possible solace to travelers. The Great Khan plants these trees all the more readily, because his astrologers and diviners tell him that he who plants trees lives long."

So take heart, all you tree planters - just see what a long life is ahead for you!

- Northern Region News.

EARLY ROOT DEVELOPMENT OF COTTONWOOD

A recent examination by J. H. Stoeckeler of the root systems of a number of plants native to the sand-dune area around Denbigh, North Dakota, revealed the fact that two-year-old cottonwood trees have root systems extending as much as six or seven feet deep in these sandy soils. Undoubtedly this ability to develop a root system at an early age plays a considerable part in the establishment of this species under very adverse conditions.

- Forest Research Digest.

FLOOD PRODUCES COTTONWOOD WILDINGS - AND OTHER THINGS

While I have never visited the shell-torn fields of Europe, I feel that I have a good idea of their appearance gained from my recent experience in the "No Man's Land" along the Republican River in the vicinity of McCook. The lowlands south of McCook are full of "shell holes" as well as all sorts of debris left by the flood waters. We found wire fences, gas engines, concrete foundations, skeletons of livestock, part of a motorcycle, and other items too numerous to mention. Naturally this did not contribute much to the ease with which we could dig cottonwood wildings, either with shovels or with the nursery tree digger that we had along. The man who rented us teams for the digger had to furnish a new four-horse evenner nearly every day to replace the one broken by some "immovable object" the day before.

Two of the Relief Rollers working on the job had sat on the roof of the City Light Plant at McCook for two or three days during the flood and "watched the rest of the world go by," and nothing that they could do about it. Another one, in company with several others, was left stranded

on the only span of the bridge that did not go out and they were all mighty busy steering floating objects away from their span to keep a jam from forming. Finally a cow came swimming along and was promptly rescued and was thereafter milked with a frequency and regularity seldom equaled.

In spite of difficulties encountered underground, the weather gave us a break and we loaded a "freezer" for Fremont at the end of the first ten days with enough cottonwoods to plant a row 178 miles long - if you planted them far enough apart.

- V.M.

TOTAL UNSUBMITTED VOUCHERS AS OF DECEMBER 10,
INCURRED PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1

Unit	Form 1034 Vouchers		Reimbursement Accounts		Total		Total Accounts Submitted By Units Since July 1
	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	
North Dakota	4	27.38			4	27.38	1782
South Dakota	5	54.14			5	54.14	1553
Nebraska	3	52.44			3	52.44	1558
Kansas	15	314.00			15	314.00	1444
Oklahoma							915
Texas							1088
Reg. Office							266
TOTALS	27	447.96			27	447.96	8606

ANYWAY, SHE WAS WORKING THE RIGHT DIVISION

Speaking of optimism, the high-brown lady who recently called in FC for the "assistant manager" had an incurable case. Even after assuring her that this was the Forest Service and she was undoubtedly working on barren soil, she insisted on expounding the merits of joining the "National Society for Holiness" (as near as we could get it) at one dollar per throw. At any rate, we received definite information on two points:

Number 1 - There wasn't no law that would keep her from talkin' to us or nobody else around here - we wasn't near so important as the President and she guessed she could talk to him if she wanted to.

Number 2 - "W'en you white folks is squah in the middle of the big wah that's stahtin' right away, they sho' won't be no culled folks askin' you for no dollahs to join no society, we won't need 'em."

We humbly concede that statement number 1 has some elements of merit. Apparently we missed the point of number 2. Even after emerging from under our desk and giving it careful consideration in a more peaceful atmosphere, we still don't get the connection.

Anyhow the membership certificate was nothing to sniff at, being copiously adorned with gold seals, etc. We can recall numerous investments with less to show per dollar, one of the more recent, for example, being the Kansas football team.

- R.L.B.

RANGE EXAMINATION WORK NEARING COMPLETION

North Dakota reported all field examinations of range land under the 1936 Range Conservation Program were discontinued on December 7. The preliminary report shows 1481 range units were examined, representing a total range area of 1,937,490 acres on which the operator signified his intention of completing range-building improvement practices recommended by our Range Examiners, in order that he could qualify for benefit payments under the AAA program. In all, 4882 applications were filed in North Dakota representing 3,720,548 acres of range land, of which 1624 applications representing 925,248 acres were withdrawn after interview by Examiners and 1403 cases representing 692,390 acres were dropped without examination, leaving 374 cases with 165,425 acres out of the program at the time the Examiners were withdrawn due to adverse climatic conditions.

Range examinations in Kansas will probably be completed by December 19. It is expected approximately 1,100,000 acres will be examined in Kansas, representing compliance by over 800 applicants. There have been 2040 range applications filed in Kansas involving 1,915,173 acres, but over half of the applicants have cancelled their applications before or after the visit by the Examiners.

Many applications were withdrawn when the operator learned that the Government was not going to put in his range improvements for him or that the amount of benefit payments available to him, based on the carrying capacity of his land, were not sufficient to cover the cost of the improvements he wished to have constructed. For the most part, cancellation of applications was due to a lack of adequate time available to the farmer to complete his range improvements before adverse weather conditions, or the dead line set for completion of range-building practices on January 1. Many County Agents in Kansas have estimated that the proposed 1937 Range Conservation Program would show an increase from three to six times greater than the 1936 program in acreage and number of applications involved.

All Range Examiners detailed to the 1936 program have realized the rush nature of this project and have responded willingly to the demands for extra long hours and holiday encroachments upon their time which resulted through the insistent demands on the County Committee and Examiner for early examinations on practically all range units entered in the program. We have realized that this program represented the initial introduction of the Forest Service in this territory as a leader in the field of range management. Our Examiners made field trips with State Committees, County Committees and County Agents so that we could explain our methods of field work and place ourselves in a closer cooperative working basis with them. We have taken advantage of opportunities to demonstrate to the farmer our methods of determining grazing capacity, to point out indicators of overgrazing and the declining productivity of his range lands, and to discuss on the range the improved methods of range management which could be applied to assure the increased or continued maximum production of his grazing resource.

- Arthur Cramer

DROUGHT VS. PLANTING TECHNIQUE

What percentage of our loss of newly planted trees can actually be attributed to drought? This question was recently raised by one of the field men and it is a good one.

When trees of the same species are set out on the same site and under practically identical conditions, why is it that some of the trees will live and some not? Isn't it possible that the real reason for the loss of some of the trees is due to one or any number of other factors such as poor planting, weakened stock, disease, etc.? It does seem odd that one tree should die and another right alongside it live. Perhaps if we knew just what happens or how drought kills a tree, we would be in a better position to answer these questions. Is the effect of drought purely a matter of lack of water or is it too rapid desiccation? Or does drought affect a tree only when the nutriment balance is at a definite point?

Personally, I'm inclined to believe that we can eliminate at least a percentage of the "drought" killed trees by more careful handling of the stock and a better job of planting. Proper planting is vitally important. My observations this fall lead me to believe that poor planting may have been the real reason for some of the loss that has been attributed to drought. What do you think?

- J.D.

WE HAVE A CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas party of the personnel of the Regional Office and the Nebraska State Office on December 17 was a merry get-together. We are grateful to the YMCA for the use of the Red Room for this party, and hope they will receive some pleasure from the decorated Christmas tree which we left for their use over the holiday season.

There were about one hundred in attendance, approximately two hundred of whom were children - running, jumping, roaring, and having a good time in general. However, the adults didn't do so bad for themselves - talking, singing Christmas carols, and playing shuffleboard. It was delightful to have the Watkins' family, the Wrights', Mr. and Mrs. Hayes, Mrs. Wood and the two boys, the Simpsons', and Mr. and Mr. Cramer with us.

Santa Claus, in person, distributed gifts to old and young alike, and a merry old soul he was. He isn't quite so obese as he used to be, we noticed, but enough. We missed the smiling countenance of Otto Bartos during Santa's stay, but were glad to see him arrive later on in the evening. Tommy is hoping the bathroom furnishings he received have no undercurrent of meaning, and Mrs. Olson hopes the same regarding the bar of Mickey Mouse soap.

Sandwiches and coffee, popcorn balls and bags of candy rounded up things to a most satisfactory ending, and as the guests departed the room was fairly ringing with cries of "Merry Christmas."

Much praise is due the committee who handled the affair. They did a grand job.

- E.K.D.

Max Pfaender and A. L. Ford attended the annual meeting of the South Dakota State Horticultural Society held at Clark, South Dakota November 18 and 19. The accomplishments of the project in the State were explained in detail at this meeting. This organization passed a strong resolution in favor of a large-scale farm forestry program.

Nursery stock produced at our Rapid City nursery was shipped by rail to the central heel-in grounds at Brookings. Refrigerator cars were used and although one car was en route when the temperature was close to zero, charcoal heaters brought the stock through without damage.

Our nursery production this year, including wildings, is 4,445,000 seedlings of the premium grade. Two million seven hundred thousand are now heeled-in at Brookings. The remainder will be left in the nurseries over winter. This has been necessary because "Old Man Winter" beat his regular schedule by a couple of weeks and caught us with our nether garment at half mast - if you know what we mean.

Korean Chinese elm stored over winter in air-tight sealed cans gave a good stand at our Brookings nursery. This stock was slightly lower in height than that grown from seed collected locally. At the Baltic nursery Chinese elm grown from local seed gave a much better stand than the winter-stored Korean seed.

Arrangements have been made for the post office people here at Brookings to use a number of our pick-ups to assist them in the Christmas mail rush. This is a good stunt. It doesn't hurt us and helps them materially.

Reference is made to Dave Olson's reply to Mr. Carleton's inquiry in the November issue about conifer rows, where he states "up north where the trees are pretty dinky, that's all right."

South Dakota resents that crack. We realize that we are out of the banana belt and we have only two seasons, namely, winter and July. But may we ask, Dave, why we are ridiculed for conditions that are beyond our control? Wouldn't it be more apropos to jump on God instead of us? He arranged this short season in the north. We didn't have a thing to do with it.

Incidentally, Dave, when you want some more photos of darned good-looking strips, come on up. We have the material for your skilled photography. We'll try to treat you royally, but after the above crack it's hard to see how we can ever be the same.

A. L. Ford attended the meeting of the President's Drought Committee at Bismarck, North Dakota on November 23.

: NEBRASKA :

With the detail of Matthew and Swim to Oklahoma and Kansas on November 16, Meines and Moffet on December 1 and Marshall on December 16 to Texas, and the permanent transfer of Byars to Texas on December 1, Nebraska field activities are operating on a much reduced scale. However, with field work nearly at a standstill, we expect to find time for assembling and compiling some of the figures and information which we have been piling up during the past field season. To assist in this work, E. G. Champagne and Carl Taylor will spend a portion of their time for the next month or so in the State Office.

All nursery stock, except a small amount of stock which is being regraded at the Fremont deciduous nursery, has been dug, bundled and heeled-in at the Fremont coniferous nursery for storage over winter. Approximately 5,250,000 usable seedlings were dug, of which slightly more than 2,000,000 were turned over to the Soil Conservation Service.

A wilding collection crew is at work near McCook digging and pulling cottonwood seedlings. It is estimated that 500,000 seedlings can be collected if cold weather doesn't entirely close down the operation before December 31. This crew is filling in its time collecting hackberry seed on cold days when temperatures are near or below freezing. This stock is being moved to Fremont by refrigerator cars where it will be heeled-in over winter. Harry Courtright, our hackberry seed collector specialist, took over supervision of this work from Vernon Marshall on December 5, so that Vernon could straighten up his nursery activities at Arlington prior to his detail to Texas.

A sudden cold snap on December 4, which developed into below-zero temperatures by the 7th, put a stop to fall replanting activities after approximately 70 miles of shelterbelt strips were replanted. More than 500,000 trees were used in this job which will appreciably reduce our peak load in the spring. Now the big job falls on the Biological Survey men who are trying to keep hungry rabbits from devouring the trees. And by "hungry" and "devouring" is meant just that, as the scarcity of natural food for these pests has caused them to move in by the scores and take possession of many of our plantings. Chinese elm, which is exceptionally good rabbit fodder in good years, is being wrapped with building paper, newspaper, and what-have-you, as a last resort.

Approximately 55,000 pounds, clean weight, of seed has been collected to date. Two small crews are still gathering hackberry and cedar as there is a heavy crop of these two species this year. Carl Taylor has recently developed a machine for scarifying cedar seed prior to stratification. This machine turns out five pounds every two hours. It is a small outfit having a drum 8" in diameter and 24" long in which revolves a shaft carrying discs $7\frac{1}{4}$ " in diameter spaced 2" apart. The discs are made of plywood covered on both sides with "durundum" abrasive paper of No. 24 gut and the drum is lined part way around with the same material. It is operated with a small electric motor at about 450 RPM. The machine cost about \$8.00 for materials, and a Sunday for Taylor.

The nurserymen versus the forester in the makeup of Ralph Johnston still crops out, and explains (?) the incomprehensible. To a forester, visions of saw logs rushing over rapids and eventually dashing through the gang saw to become No. 1 Common is always in the foreground. The vision of a new horticultural variety of unsurpassed beauty dazzles the imagination of the nurseryman. Sid Burton believes that visions of the possibility of developing a weeping lilac may be responsible for the fact that one of the ordinary variety was discovered firmly planted in terra firma--upside down!

We find that a two-wheel trailer drawn behind the planting truck, to haul the trees in, gives more room in the truck for the men, makes it easier to load the trees, and much easier to keep the floor of the truck clean and dry. The space in the truck underneath the seats can be used as a place to put the shovels and dinner buckets. A convenient way to haul the planting trays is on top of the load of stock after the trees have been covered with shingletow and a burlap of blanket.

- G.W.S.

WHO'S WHO IN KANSAS:

S pring	Junior Foreman, St. John
Fis H	Junior Foreman, Hutchinson
R E itz	Acting State Director, Manhattan
De L berg	Junior Forester, Pratt
Johns T on	Junior Foreman, Kinsley
Rog E rs	Nurseryman, McPherson
R igdon	Chief Nurseryman, Manhattan
B uskirk	Nurseryman, Winfield
Baxt E r	Associate Forester, Manhattan
Zieg L er	Junior Forester, Coldwater
Smi T h	Nurseryman, Salina

- M.C.

Mr. E. R. Ware delivered a short talk before the Kansas State Horticultural Society at their annual meeting held recently in Manhattan, Kansas. The subject of his talk was "The Forest Tree Survey in Kansas." Field work gathering the data for this study has just about been completed. A considerable amount of work remains to be done assembling these data into the various tables.

(Editor's Note: This publication does not subscribe to, nor assume any responsibility for the sentiments--if any--implications, spelling, or nomenclature contained in the following barrage of syllabical shrapnel. We frankly don't know what it is about, and figure that we are maybe two jumps ahead of the author, at that.)

Oh, I oft ruminate on the mystical past, aeons of ages ago,
 When cohesion of molecules first began in terrestrial caverns below.
 Yes, I oft speculate how the helandile grew, in his slow tetra-
 hexa-hedrondical way,
 Enclosed in his amigdaloidalic tomb, in that antedeluvian day;
 'Till by some sudden glacial cataclysmatic change the whole
 Broddingnagian troupe
 Were irretrievably buried in Cenozoic drift, and irrevocably lost
 in the soup.

- B.W.DeM.

Replanting work is humming along in Texas, and it is expected that the job will be finished by January 15. Some trouble is being experienced in getting sufficient labor at some points, but probably our requisitions, which total 18 crews, will be filled eventually. Formerly, local N.R.S. offices delivered men to us at specified points, but assignments are now made directly by the district W.P.A. offices, and the responsibility for getting the men out largely devolves upon us. This slows things up somewhat, but doubtless cuts relief administrative costs.

All blank rows are being filled in the Texas strips, unless the landowner specifically requests that the conifer rows be left open for future planting. Most of them want the strips completed at once.

The stock from our one nursery is all dug and graded. It has been heeled in at three points within the planting area, and is delivered from these beds to the planting job. Approximately a million usable seedlings were produced.

John C. Miller, formerly with this Unit but now in Region 2, came down to thaw out in our salubrious climate for a couple of weeks, on vacation. Or maybe our climate wasn't the sole attraction. It is said that a certain Senior Stenographer in the Texas office, whose proficiency at knitting is equaled only by her ability to unscramble the split infinitives from dictation, built John two pairs of pinto socks and a striped necktie while he was there. Our public will be kept informed of future developments.

Larry Gross, of the Washington office, Dave Olson, and Sid Burton made a quite extended tour through West Texas on planting and nursery inspection. They also went down to Lubbock, where they visited the State Experiment Station, then north through the High Plains country into the Panhandle.

Gross, apparently, is of the stuff of which diplomats are made. Expressing a desire to examine a prairie dog at close range, Dave and Sid leaped into the breach - as good hosts should - with an offer to collect him a specimen with a .22 rifle. When the ammunition was exhausted, Gross insisted that they not feel badly about it; explained that he could just as easily examine a mounted specimen at the Smithsonian Institute.

Texas, the home of the pecan, has fallen down on its reputation this year. Our collection quota, if filled, would practically constitute a corner of the market in this section. There was a huge crop last year, but they are as scarce as hen's teeth this season.

We have a splendid bunch of detailed men in E. J. Lund, from South Dakota, and M. K. Meines, Wm. B. Moffet, and Vernon Marshall of Nebraska. They are of the kind that makes the wheels go 'round - and the Lord knows you need a lot of that kind during a planting season.

SO THAT'S THE KIND OF A REP WE HAVE!

"E. L. Perry, formerly State Director, was a visitor recently. We didn't enjoy his visit very much - he was on hand for only a short time at the office and couldn't be persuaded to tell even one of his inimitable stories. --J.S.V."

: OKLAHOMA :

The city of Mangum apparently believes in the efficiency of the Forest Service in tree-planting work. The city is making preparations to plant trees in the courthouse yard and along city streets, and they have requested the Forest Service to lend them one of our trained WPA foreman for the work. A man will shortly be recommended to them after he has completed his work with us.

This district has been blessed with a soaking rain, which has established perfect planting conditions for us. The soil has been moistened to a depth of twenty inches or more, greatly facilitating the planting operation and also robbing the program of one of its chief mental hazards. It is difficult to work up any enthusiasm for planting trees in semi-dry soil. Temperature conditions have also been good, the men planting in their shirt sleeves most of the time. Ordinarily the mercury rises to 50 or 60 degrees during the day. All of our replanting will probably be completed by December 23.

The benefits of a good cover crop are clearly apparent this winter. Wherever a crop of cowpeas was planted, or where crab grass or Colorado grass has been allowed to establish itself, the strip has been untouched by recent strong winds, but serious blowing has already occurred where vegetation was destroyed by cultivation after August 1.

- H.C.

The cooperation of the farmers in our rodent-control work is very gratifying. The principal objection in the past has been grounded on the supposition that our poisoning activities might endanger other forms of wildlife. However, whenever they come to understand that our program will protect all forms of wildlife except the destructive species, and that we do not intend to entirely exterminate even these, they have been very willing to help out in the work.

- C.R.

Great interest is being shown in our replanting work throughout the counties of western Oklahoma. Also, we are daily receiving inquiries as to how to make application for future plantings, what the new program will be, and when it will start. Of course we have no information on those points, but the inquiries indicate that another planting program would be very popular.

The replanting work is progressing nicely, and will be finished on schedule time unless bad weather prevents it.

- J.K.

Acting State Director Nelson has been trying his Public Relations' wings in a new element. Under the auspices of the National Emergency Council, he has made several radio addresses in various parts of Oklahoma during the past month. Jack says that this broadcasting stunt is a tough chore. He has gotten practically cross-eyed from watching the script with one eye and the clock with the other, but he is somewhat cheered by the fact that no one has so far rung the gong on him.

- E.L.P.

SEED AND NURSERIES

Seed collection in North Dakota this year has been more of a problem than ever. With the drouth, extreme hot weather, and poor growing conditions in general, the production of seed has suffered along with other crops. It was found in the case of lilac wildings that hedges dug last year did not produce sizable stock this year due to poor growing conditions. Thus it became necessary to locate new sources of supply. Cottonwood wildings were also scarce as a result of low water in the upper Missouri River, the only large source of seedlings. Prohibitive cost of collection was the main reason for failure to reach quota. Even with these difficulties, the quotas set up were reached in almost all cases.

Approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ million nursery trees and wildings have been dug and heeled in on an 8-acre plot near Jamestown. They will be delivered directly from this heel-in bed to strips at planting time. About 364,000 plants were left in the nurseries over winter.

- E.C.W.

ALL RIGHT, KENNETH, BUT WATCH YOUR STEP

This meandering Senior Clerk finally reached Lincoln last Sunday morning, on detail. The trip down from the far North was the more enjoyable because I realized that each time the wheels turned over I was getting nearer the Sunny South, but I find upon arrival that I shall have to turn my earmuffs in on a heavier pair.

Mr. Ward took me on a tour of the Regional Office and I met Mr. Perry, who advised me that there were some very attractive girls in the R.O. but that they were all "spoken for." I assured him that the Division of Public Relations would not have to work overtime straightening out any situations which could be traced to my activities, but this bright Monday afternoon, I am no longer so sure.

- G.K.C.

DARN THESE MYSTERIES!

This morning while we were fixing to put PLAINS FORESTER "to bed," Kenneth Clark, on detail here from North Dakota, galloped in wearing that self-satisfied expression peculiar to persons bearing tidings to the press. He had a nice little tid-bit for us, he said. Eddie Wilbur, who is on detail to Oklahoma had asked for several weeks leave to go to California after his Oklahoma tour of duty, and he, Kenneth, had a sneaking suspicion that Eddie was going out there for the purpose of jumping off the deep end, matrimonially speaking. So we yanked the forms off the quivering presses, grabbed a fresh typewriter, and prepared to give Eddie a little fatherly advice along the How-The-Prospective-Bridegroom-Should-Act line.

Imagine our anguish, then, when Sid Burton strolled in and reading over our shoulder announced: "Say! I think that bird got marrked a couple weeks ago there in Oklahoma. Anyway, the Woodward paper had his name in the 'licenses issued' column. I bet if he's going to California at all it's on a honeymoon."

Now wouldn't that make your grandmother bilious! Is he or ain't he? And if not, is he going to? There ought to be a law. We think it would be eminently just to sentence any offender who fails to report any marriage, divorce, birth, or other matter of vital statistics in which he is mixed up, to three years confinement in a good dark dungeon to meditate upon his sins, and thereafter to draw and quarter him. - The Editor

: JUST GOSSIP :
: ----- :
:(By, and about, everybody):

Pretty slick new masthead we have on the front page, isn't it? You no doubt have already guessed that it was not done in this office--we are long on artistic perception, appreciation, and what-not, but woefully short on ability to draw anything more elaborate than a square. Sometimes even the square is sort of skewjawed.

Rudolph Wendelin, of Region 9, is the good Samaritan who came to our rescue in this instance. He did a grand job, from the viewpoint both of expression and technique.

Some of the members of the organization have recently discovered that he who would do lecturing on a moving train must be equipped with leather lungs and a copper-lined throat. Recently several groups of Farm Bureau Federation delegates to the annual convention, crossed the Plains States by train, and were entertained with illustrated lectures by State Directors Cobb and Reitz, and by E. L. Perry. The speaker boarded the train at some convenient point, gave the lecture, and disembarked. The delegates proved to be very much interested, but the cars were far from being a satisfactory lecture room.

The Civil Service Commission announces an examination for Associate Entomologist and Asst. Entomologist, \$3200 and \$2600 a year respectively, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Optional subjects are apiculture and forest entomology, and age limits are under 45 for Associate; 40 for Assistant. Closing dates for examination are January 14 for Ariz., Calif., Colo., Idaho, Mont., Nev., New Mex., Oregon, Utah, Wash., and Wyoming, and January 11 for all other States.

Mr. Roberts and Mr. Perry attended a meeting of the Minnesota Nurserymen's Association at Saint Paul December 14-15, and Mr. Perry sat in with the Iowa Association at Des Moines on December 18. Both expressed themselves as being very pleased with the reception accorded them by the nurserymen. Apparently most Mid-Western nurserymen are quite familiar with the work which we have done and have a high regard for its quality.

Mr. Cassel, of Kansas, has been transferred to the Soil Conservation Service, and took up his new job December 7. Our best wishes go with him.

Mr. Kirby is in Texas giving the western part of that not inconsiderable empire a once-over, and Mr. Cramer has been in the R.O. during his absence, working up statistics on the Kansas and North Dakota range work. Lee expects to be back by Christmas, which will be all right if he does not miscalculate the size of Texas and start back a week or two too late.

The boys and girls in the R.O. who shuffle the personnel and equipment around on paper, received a thrill when a stake truck loaded with a pickup passed through Lincoln recently on its way south. Some of them had begun to wonder if anything actually happened when various and sundry records had been adjusted and Shelterbelter John Doe of North Dakota instructed to grap himself a couple of trucks and hit the trail for Texas. It is the same feeling that you get when a plant in the backyard garden turns out to be a radish, after all, and not the cocklebur that you had darkly suspicioned.